

Appl. No. 09/869,060  
Amendment dated: October 3, 2007  
Reply to OA of: April 3, 2007

**Amendments to the specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

**--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to an assay for homocysteine in body fluids or fluids derived therefrom and to kits for such assays.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

**--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Viewed from one aspect therefore the invention provides a method for assaying homocysteine in a sample, said method comprising:--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 31 and ending at page 5, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

**--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

In the method of the invention, the homocysteine content of the sample, preferably the tHcy value, is determined indirectly by determining the amount of the polyhapten:antibody complex, preferably by nephelometry or turbidimetry. The homocysteine content may be determined quantitatively, e.g. in absolute units such as  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , or alternatively the determination may be qualitative, e.g. simply that it is above a predetermined threshold such as 15, 18 or 20  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ . Generally, the assay measurement will be calibrated against standard homocysteine solutions containing known concentrations of homocysteine, usually L-homocysteine; however for assays

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run on automated analysers only occasional calibration will be necessary, e.g. when reagent reservoirs are refilled.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows a plot of absorption against time for calibration samples under the assay system of Example 8;

Figure 2 shows a plot of absorption against time for calibration samples under the assay system of Example 9;

Figure 3 shows dose response curves for the assays using the polyhaptenes of Examples 4 and 5;

Figure 4 shows a comparison of immunoprecipitation signal obtained using BSA-SAH, IgY-SAH and PTG-SAH conjugates under the assay conditions of Example 8;

Figure 5 shows a plot of absorption against time for calibration samples under the assay system of Example 10; and

Figure 6 shows the dose response curve for the assay of Example 10.--